



# **JULIE LASSA**

## **STATE SENATOR**

**Senate Committee on Ethics Reform and Government Operations**  
**Senate Bill 23, Legislator as a lobbyist**  
**Tuesday, April 10, 2007**  
**12:30pm.**  
**Room 300 SE**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on Senate Bill 23.

Senate Bill 23 places a one-year time restriction on legislators who leave the legislature to lobby. This bill was introduced last session by former state Representative Freese and is being introduced in the Assembly this session by Representative Black.

Current state law places a one year waiting period on most former state officials who wish to become lobbyists, but exempts legislators. Legislators should be held equally as accountable to their constituents as other state officials are to their posts and not become beholden to a particular special interest group who offers them a job. When legislators retire to lobbying jobs, it sends the message to their constituents that elected officials could have been representing their future employers, and not them.

The "revolving door" of government and special interests should be closed to protect the integrity of the legislature.

Senate Bill 23 prohibits any legislator from accepting a job as a lobbyist for 12 months after leaving office. The bill establishes fines of up to \$5,000 per offense and up to six months imprisonment.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.